

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CU-04 AID-20 SIL-01 LAB-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7627

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB LI UR

SUBJECT: CIO SEC GEN GRAY TO VISIT USSR

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/ EPS (J. T. SMITH); DAKAR FOR RIA

REF: MONROVIA'S A -70 OF 4/1/72

1. FRANK WALKER, ASSTSEC GEN OF THE LIBERIAN CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION (CIO), NOTED DURING THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL ON EMBOFF MARCH 29 PRIOR TO HIS USAID- SPONSORED TRIP TO THE US THAT AMOS GRAY, CIO SEC GEN, WOULD BE TRAVELING TO MOSCOW SHORTLY. WALKER RATHER FUZZILY REFERRED TO THE RUSSIAN INVITATION TO VISIT THE USSR AS BEING FOR THE QTE MAY DAY UNQTE CELEBRATIONS. HOWEVER, IN DESCRIBING GRAY' S TRAVEL PLANS WALKER STATED THAT GRAY, WHO IS IN TUNIS PRESENTLY FOR THE ATUC CONFERENCE, WILL GO TO THE USSR AFTER TUNIS AND THEN PROCEED DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW TO ADDIS ABABA FOR THE OAU- PAN AFRICAN LABOR CONFERENCE ON APRIL 6-14.

2. WALKER ALSO STATED IN AN OFF- HAND FASHION THAT THE CIO HAD RECEIVED THESE INVITATIONS QTE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS OR SO UNQTE BUT THAT THE CIO EXECUTIVE ONLY RECENTLY DECIDED TO ACCEPT THIS YEARS INVITATION. WALKER NOTED THE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIBERIA AND THE USSR BUT EXPLAINED HIS PERSONAL ADVOCACY

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FOR GRAY' S TRIP TO RUSSIA IN TERMS OF LEARNING ABOUT SOMETHING DIRECTLY RATHER THAN READING ABOUT IT OR RECEIVING VERBAL REPORTS.

3. COMMENT: GRAY WAS EXPECTED TO ATTEND A SOVIET LABOR CONFERENCE (FYI-- PROBABLY THE ALL UNION CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF TRADE UNIONS, OR AUCCTU. SEE REFAIR.) LAST YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME, BUT THE INVITATION FROM THE USSR ARRIVED LATE AND NO ONE NOTICED THE DATE OF THE CONFERENCE UNTIL PLANS FOR THE TRIP WERE UNDER WAY. TO THE BEST OF EMBASSY' S KNOWLEDGE, GRAY HAS NEVER BEFORE VISITED THE USSR, AND HE IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY.

4. IF GRAY DOES TRAVEL TO THE USSR, HE WILL BE THE FIRST KNOWN LIBERIAN TO DO SO SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN EACH OTHER' S CAPITALS LAST DECEMBER.
MANFULL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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